

Talbot County Emergency Management Agency

Citizen Information on Terrorist/Biological Threats

Public Safety with Pride and Commitment!

(410) 770-8160



9-1-1 * Fire/EMS/Police Dispatch * Emergency Management/
Communications * Hazardous Materials Management "
County Employee Safety

The Talbot County Emergency Management Agency is working with the State of Maryland, local law enforcement agencies, first responders, and the Talbot County Health Department to continue our ongoing effort to mitigate and plan for all types of emergencies, including acts of terrorism. We will continue to enhance our preparedness activities and emergency planning in the event of a terrorist/biological incident in Talbot County, ensuring the safety of our citizens and visitors.



Please contact this agency and/or the Talbot County Health Department with any questions you may have.

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Easton, Maryland 21601**

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WHAT IS ANTHRAX?

- Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Bacillus Anthracis*, which is capable of forming spores. Anthrax infection can occur in three forms: cutaneous (skin), inhalation (lung), and gastrointestinal (stomach and intestines).
- If people have intentionally been exposed, as in a bio-terrorist release, breathing in the spores is the most likely route of exposure that might lead to a serious lung infection (inhalation anthrax). However, the infectious dose for inhalation (lung) anthrax is quite high, and requires exposure to be a large number of spores (8,000-10,000). This high level of exposure is unlikely to affect anyone not in the immediate area.
- Although less likely, a cutaneous (skin) infection due to anthrax can occur if the spores are in contact with an area of skin that is not intact, such as a cut or sore. Cutaneous (skin) anthrax is marked by a boil-like lesion that eventually forms an ulcer with a black center. The cutaneous form responds well to antibiotics when treatment begins soon after symptoms appear.
- Anthrax is not contagious or transferable from one person to another.
- It is not recommended that anyone begin taking antibiotics as precautionary. This will render antibiotics ineffective if needed. This can do more harm than good.
- **REMAIN CALM. IF YOU HAVE HAD A REAL EXPOSURE, YOU WILL BE TREATED.**

**WHAT DO I DO IF I THINK I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ANTHRAX OR
ANOTHER BIOLOGICAL AGENT?**



**DIAL 9-1-1
FIRE * POLICE * EMS**

TALBOT COUNTY ALERT AND WARNING

Sirens

**Emergency Alert System – Tune Radio to WCEI
and listen for emergency instructions.**

Television/Cable Crawlers

Door-to-door sweeps

**Telephone Fan-outs to schools and major employers:
hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers**

Announcements using County Radio System

**IMMEDIATELY TUNE TO WCEI IN THE EVENT OF A
TERRORIST/BIOLOGICAL EVENT AND LISTEN FOR INSTRUCTIONS.**

If advised to evacuate, stay calm and follow the instructions given.

**If advised to shelter-in-place, stay calm and move to the most central part of
your home, business or other facility. Close and lock all windows and doors.
Turn off all fans, heating and air-conditioning units.**

PLAN AHEAD SO THAT IF DISASTER STRIKES, YOU HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION.

DO NOT PANIC!

For more information on Emergency Preparedness for Terrorist activities, please contact the Talbot County Emergency Management Agency at

(410)770-8160

CITIZEN'S PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM

Develop a Family Disaster Plan

Be aware of suspicious persons or activities, public disputes and confrontations and report them to the proper authorities by calling 9-1-1.

Carry an ID and have information on any special medical conditions you may have.

Do not unnecessarily divulge your personal information such as address, phone #, or family information.

Increase your awareness when in public facilities. Know where exits are and pay attention to your surroundings at all times.

Be alert to unattended vehicles, packages, briefcases, and so forth. Be alert to deliveries, mail and parcels and handle with care anything suspicious. Mail/parcels having the following characteristics could be suspicious: foreign, priority or special delivery mail, things labeled "confidential", "personal", "only to be opened by addressee", things marked "Fragile", "Rush", "Handle with care", excessive postage, no return address, poorly typed or handwritten addresses, titles but no names, misspelled common words, oily stains or discolorations, uneven or excessive weight distribution, excessive tape or string on a package, postmark different from area in return address, and packages or letters with protruding materials.

IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPICIOUS LETTER OR PACKAGE, DO NOT OPEN. CONTACT THE SENDER TO DETERMINE THE CONTENTS. IF UNABLE TO DO THIS, REPORT THE PACKAGE BY CALLING 9-1-1.

The Talbot County Emergency Management Agency plans for response to all types of emergencies, including terrorism. Though the Eastern Shore is considered a low target area, we recognize the importance of being prepared for a terrorist event in light of these unfortunate and uncertain times.

Where do I get more information?

Web Sites of Interest:

www.dhmh.state.md.us

www.cdc.gov

www.mema.state.md.us

Additional Information:

Talbot County Health Department

(410) 819-5600



Working together for the safety of Talbot County Citizens.